

REMARKS

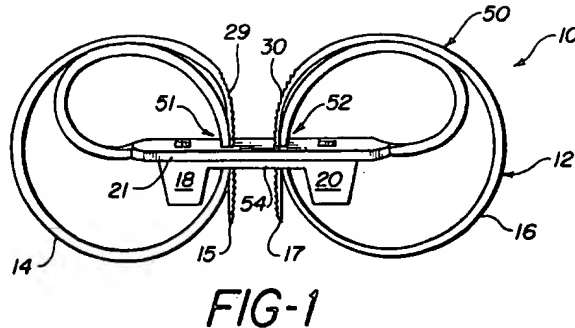
Claims 1-10 and 17-20 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the notification that Claims 1-10 have been allowed and that Claims 18 and 20 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable in independent form. This response places those claims in independent form, making the only rejected claims 17 and 19.

Claims 11-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. These claims were withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more appropriate continuing applications directed to these claims.

Enclosed for review by the Examiner are "new formal drawings" that were requested in the Office Action. Approval of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bingold (US 5,398,383). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bingold (Figure 1) is said to teach a disposable handcuff comprising two **coiled** toothed straps 14, 16 and a two slot, toothed socket clasp 21 at about the midpoint of the straps. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Bingold Figure 1 is reproduced below:



Nothing in Bingold teaches or suggests a **tightly coiled** cuff as recited in rejected claim 19. Claim 19 (as amended) clearly recites the Applicant's preferred embodiment of the invention, namely "A disposable handcuff comprising two **tightly coiled** toothed straps and a two slot, toothed socket clasp at about the midpoint of said straps."

The term "coiled" as defined in the specification as filed (see page 3) describes a wound version, preferably a tightly wound version, of the strap portion of the cuff device, wound in a clockwise and/or counterclockwise manner, to significantly reduce the size of the cuff, and to permit easy carrying of the same. In the single loop form, the socket can be wound inside the strap, or the strap can be wound leaving the socket on the outside of the coil. In the double loop form, the two straps are normally wound separately, such that the coils are gathered under the central socket member. **Insertion of the strap(s) into the socket(s) during use of the disposable cuffs, thereby forming one or more "loose loops," which are to be tightened during use, is specifically excluded from the definition of the term "coiled" as used herein.** This language expressly excludes the Bingold cuff from the claimed definition of coiled.

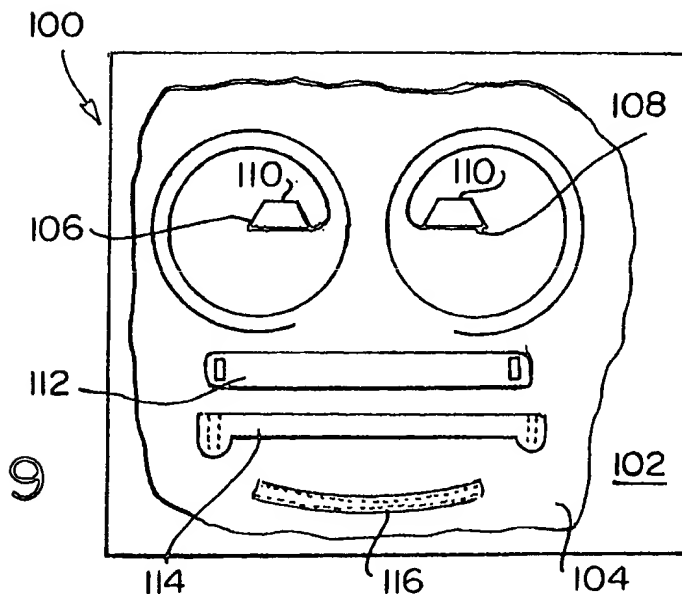
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of Claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson (US 5,443,155) in view of Geisinger (US 5,193,254). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to modify the straps of Robinson (Figure 9) in view of Geisinger (Figures 1, 12, 14 and 15) to obtain the invention of Claim 17. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 17 (as amended) recites the following elements - A disposable handcuff comprising **a single tightly coiled toothed strap** with a single slot, toothed socket clasp at one end thereof.

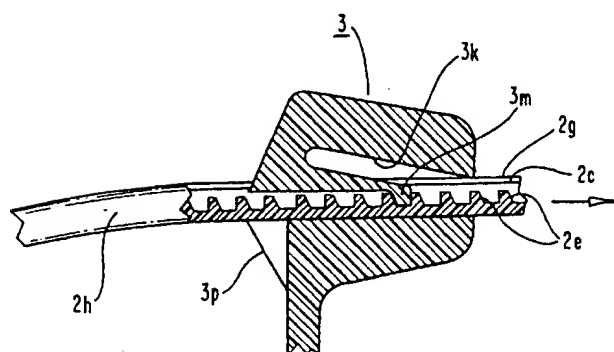
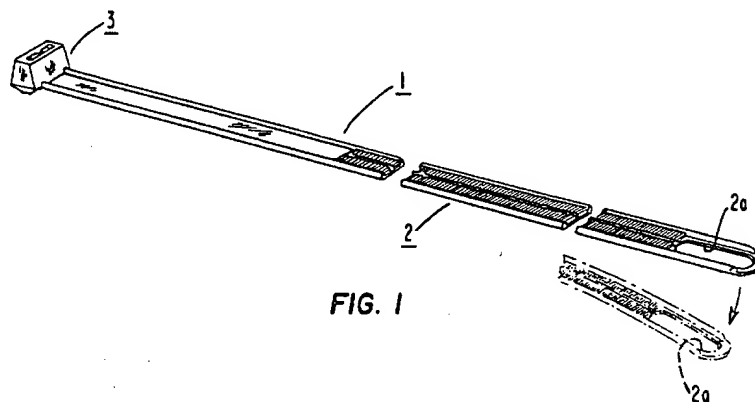
Robinson Figure 9 is shown below:



As described in the Robinson patent, Figure 9 illustrates a "kit" of parts used to create the wrist restraining device of Figure 1. Nothing in this kit either teaches, suggests, or otherwise makes obvious the invention defined in rejected

claim 17. In fact, if a "tightly coiled" single strap (as claimed) was used in such a kit, the Robinson invention would likely not be capable of being operational - since the coil retains some memory, and the Robinson invention relies upon the free and easy pull-through of the strap elements.

The Geisinger patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Robinson patent in making Claim 17 obvious to a person having ordinary skill in this field. The Examiner is relying upon Figures 1, 12, 14 and 15 of Geisinger, which are shown below:



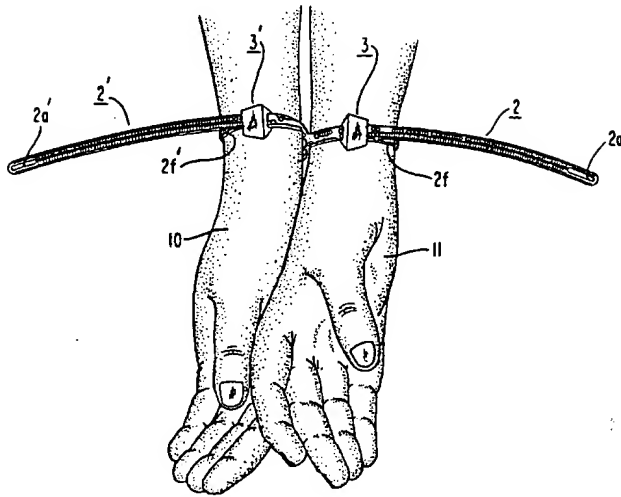


FIG. 14

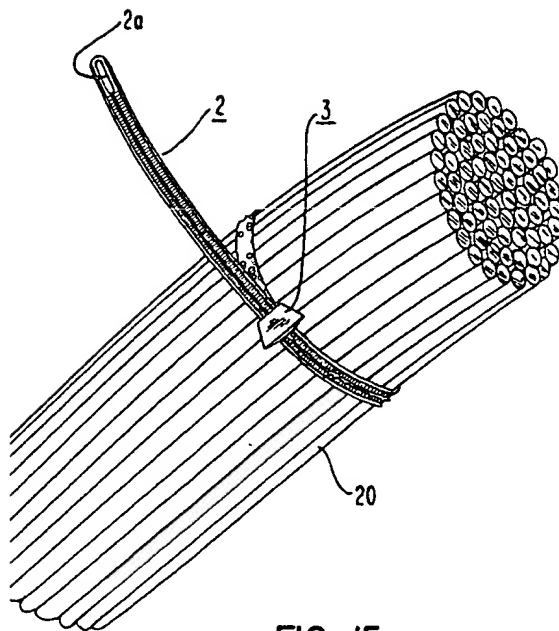


FIG. 15

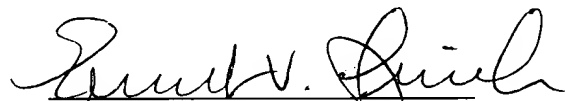
Nothing in the cited Figures of the Geisinger patent either teaches, suggests, or otherwise makes obvious the invention defined in rejected claim 17. This patent is a prior art single cuff restraint, which as illustrated in Figure 14 is usually employed in "pairs" in order to restrain a person's wrists. Claim 17 (as amended) recites the following elements - A disposable handcuff comprising **a single tightly coiled toothed strap** with a single slot, toothed socket clasp at one end thereof. This reference, even if combined with Robinson, does not make such an invention obvious.

Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of Claim 17 should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Such action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the amendments and/or remarks made herein, the undersigned attorney would appreciate the opportunity to do so. Thus the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned, collect at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 27 August 2002

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE**

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 17, as follows:

Figure 1 shows the prior art version of a preferred disposable double loop handcuff 10 used in the present invention, namely the Monadnock DOUBLE CUFF™. See also, U.S. Design Patent No. 347,156, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The preferred prior art single loop handcuff used in the present invention is the Monadnock SPARE CUFF™. Similar disposable handcuffs from other manufacturers are likewise amenable to being coiled according to the method of the present invention into a compact and easy to use form, as taught herein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, as follows:

As described in Figures 2-6, the apparatus which is used in the coiling of the cuffs according to the method of the present invention comprises two 0.750 inch diameter mandrels 26 & 28 which are spaced apart at a precise distance so as to allow the coils of the cuff material form, in a tight and compact manner, and in the double loop version, advantageously having the two coils be at the same time compressed together for maximum compactness.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15, as follows:

The mandrels are advantageously slotted through the center with a slot in the shape of a radius in order to hold the two sections being rolled tight to the mandrels. The two mandrels are counter rotated using drive gears 42 & 44,

such that they move toward one another in order to coil the cuff sections 12 & 14 tight against the middle section 16 [each other]. The radius slots also assist in allowing the coiled cuff to be stripped off of the mandrels in tact and not unrolled.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21, as follows:

As best illustrated in Figures 2-4, the drive gears which move the counter rotating mandrels are advantageously powered by a motor 22, because of the force needed to compact the Nylon material employed in the manufacture of the cuffs. If other materials are used in the manufacture of such cuffs, hand power could be sufficient to allow the coiling.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, as follows:

As shown in Figures 2 and 6, a movable plate 24 is used, placed over the two mandrels, so that the cuff, once it has been tightly coiled and secured with a band, can be ejected from the mandrels. This may be accomplished by applying a yoke with a handle, attached to the plate, which forces the plate forward to eject the coiled and banded cuff.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

17. (Amended) A disposable handcuff comprising a single tightly coiled toothed strap with a single slot, toothed socket clasp at one end thereof.

18. (Amended) A disposable handcuff comprising a single coiled toothed strap with a single slot, toothed socket clasp at one end thereof. [The

disposable handcuff of claim 17,] further comprising a banding device holding the coil in place.

19. (Twice Amended) A disposable handcuff comprising two tightly coiled toothed straps and a two slot, toothed socket clasp at about the midpoint of said straps.

20. (Amended) A disposable handcuff comprising two coiled toothed straps and a two slot, toothed socket clasp at about the midpoint of said straps, [The disposable handcuff of claim 19,] further comprising a banding device holding the coils in place.